[8th April 1958

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Sale of fertilizers

* 628 *Q.*—SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether periodical tests are being carried out on the various fertilizers and mixtures sold by different companies in the State;

(*b*) if so, the monthwar samples taken from October 1957 and the number analysed similarly;

(*c*) the results of the inspection;

(*d*) how many samples were found defective;

(*e*) the action taken against persons selling substandardized fertilizers;

(*f*) the list of firms against whom action has been taken with reasons therefor; and

(*g*) the number of cases against each firm?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes. The samples are taken under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1957.

(*b*) 7 (seven) samples in January, 1958 were taken and out of this four samples were analysed. No samples were taken for October–December, 1957.

(*c*) & (*d*) Three of the samples conformed to the prescribed standard; the fourth sample was found to be ammonium sulphate adulterated with common salt to an extent of about 40 per cent in the stock.

(*e*) The persons dealing in substandard fertilisers will be prosecuted, for contravention of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1957.

(*f*) & (*g*) One unlicensed and unauthorised dealer in ammonium sulphate in Velur, Salem district.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether steps have since been taken to prosecute these people?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir.